

Information on Monitoring Waivers 2002-2010

What are monitoring waivers?

Monitoring waivers are reductions in the repeat monitoring frequency for certain inorganic and organic chemical contaminants. Monitoring waivers are allowed by federal rules and each state has the option to allow them or not. Idaho adopted rules to allow monitoring waivers because of the low occurrence of contamination in public water systems and to help systems, particularly small systems, save money.

Who can apply for monitoring waivers?

All community and non-community non-transient water systems that are current on their annual drinking water fee assessments may apply for monitoring waivers.

Community water system (CWS) definition: a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents OR regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents. Examples: municipal systems, subdivisions and trailer parks

Non-community non-transient water system (NCNTWS) definition: a public water system that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months of the year and is not regulated as a community water system. Examples: schools, factories and churches

How do I apply for monitoring waivers?

If you have not received waiver application materials by mail, contact your regional or health district office (listed below) to ensure your address information is correct and to request the forms. You may also download the forms from Idaho DEQ's website at:

<http://www2.state.id.us/deq/water/water1.htm> under "Drinking Water".

Completely fill out the *Monitoring Waiver Application 2002-2010* and the *Monitoring Waiver Agreement 2002-2010*. The applications are designed, based on federal requirements, to determine levels of contamination and the vulnerability of the system to contamination. Vulnerability information may be obtained from a Source Water Assessment Report.

Source Water Assessment information: If a Source Water Assessment was performed for your system, you may wish to refer to the information in your Source Water Assessment Report. (Not having a Source Water Assessment does not affect your eligibility for waivers). This report may be used as a vulnerability assessment. More information on source water assessments and protection plans can be found at: http://www2.state.id.us/deq/water/water1.htm#source_water

Fill out the questions to the best of your ability and do not guess; write "unknown" for questions if you are unsure about the answer. A table of regulated synthetic organic chemicals and common trade names is available on-line (see web address above) to review when assessing use patterns.

Return the signed and completed application along with the agreement to your local health district or DEQ regional office. Make sure any additional requested materials are included (e.g. questions 3d and 4a may require additional information). Make copies for your records.

Your application will be processed within 60 days of receipt unless you are notified otherwise.

How often do I apply for waivers?

Ideally, applications should be made *prior* to the monitoring period for which the waiver would be effective. Historically, that has not been the case. At the very latest, applications need to be returned 60 days prior to the end of the monitoring period. Idaho DEQ is requesting that applications be returned by the end of October 2002 for systems to be eligible for the 2002-2004 monitoring period.

Monitoring waivers require periodic renewal and are only effective for a defined number of monitoring periods. Monitoring periods are 3-year intervals of time. Three monitoring periods make a full 9-year monitoring cycle. We are currently in the 1st monitoring period (2002-2004) of the 2nd monitoring cycle (2002-2010).

Waiver	Renewal Timeframe*	Year Due
IOCs**	9 years for ground and surface water sources	2011
VOCs GW	6 years for ground water sources	2008
VOCs SW	3 years for surface water sources	2005 & 2008
SOCs	3 years for ground and surface water sources	2005 & 2008
Asbestos	9 years for ground and surface water sources	2011
Cyanide	9 years for ground and surface water sources	2011
Dioxin	3 years for ground and surface water sources	2005 & 2008

* Unless otherwise notified.

**Excluding nitrate, nitrite, sodium and arsenic

My system applied for waivers last year; do we need to do it again?

Short answer: yes. Because 2001 was at the end of the 1999-2001 compliance period, most of the applications were essentially “retroactive” for 1999-2001. We are currently accepting applications for the 2002-2004 monitoring period. Even if your system received a waiver within the past few years and the waiver is effective for a few more years, we encourage your system to complete the application.

Do I have to apply for monitoring waivers?

Yes, if you want to be considered for a reduced monitoring schedule. Monitoring waivers are only granted through the application process. You don’t have to apply for a reduced frequency but it can save a considerable amount of money, especially for synthetic organic contaminants. \$\$\$

DEQ and Health District contact information:

DEQ Website: www2.state.id.us/deg

DEQ, Couer d’Alene 769-1422 Panhandle District Health 265-6384	DEQ, Twin Falls (208) 736-2190 South Central District Health 734-5900 x 217
DEQ, Lewiston 799-4370 North Central District Health 799-3100	DEQ, Pocatello (208) 346-6160 Southeastern District Health 233-9080 x 320
DEQ, Boise 373-0550 Southwest District Health, Caldwell 344-5403 Central District Health, Boise 327-7499	DEQ, Idaho Falls (208) 528-2650 District Seven Health 523-5382